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issue 45, volume 82 www.newbuffalotimes.com Thursday, November 9, 2023

MOLD cohort discusses parks operations, community engagement in Chikaming Township
PAGE 4

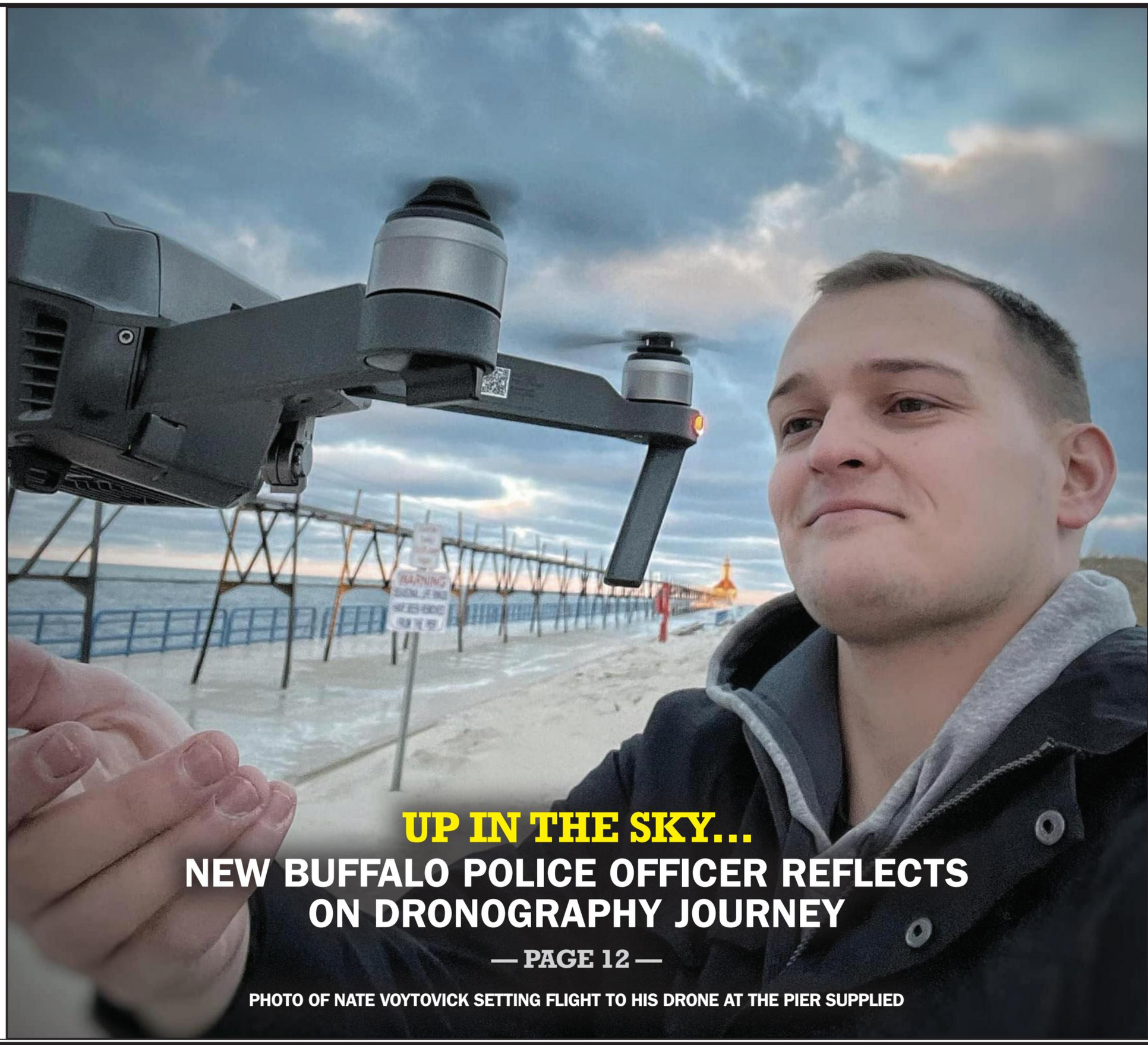
Michigan City elects first African American mayor
PAGE 5

Raiders win conference title in football **PAGE 7**

Calvary Chapel, New Buffalo students pack shoe boxes for children
PAGE 8

'Spectacular Tournament of Playwrights' returns to The Acorn stage
PAGE 10

Plans to mostly shutter U.S. Coast Guard station
PAGE 18



UP IN THE SKY...
NEW BUFFALO POLICE OFFICER REFLECTS ON DRONOGRAPHY JOURNEY

— PAGE 12 —

PHOTO OF NATE VOYTOVICK SETTING FLIGHT TO HIS DRONE AT THE PIER SUPPLIED

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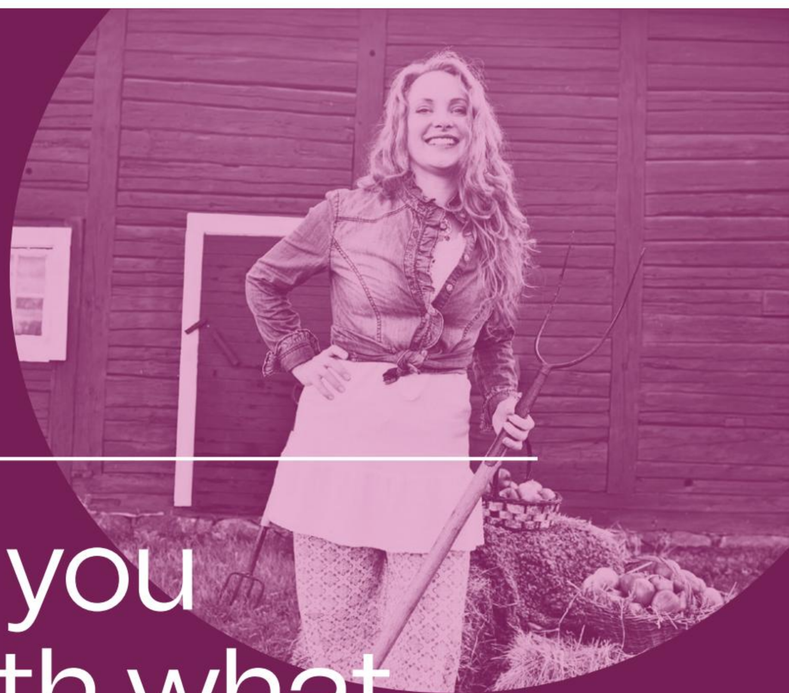
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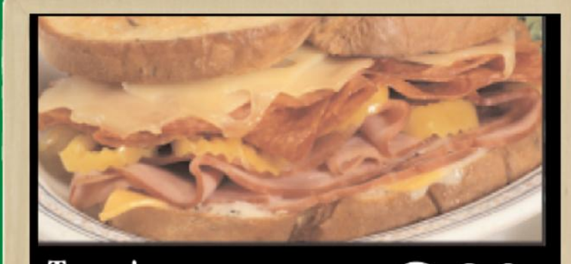
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Fatal motorcycle accident in New Buffalo Township is under investigation

Police are investigating what appeared to be a single-vehicle crash that killed a motorcyclist in New Buffalo Township.

According to a press release made by Lt. Kevin Higgs of the Berrien County Sheriff's Office, at approximately 9:24 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6, the sheriff's office responded to an incident on W. US-12 and Red Arrow Highway in the township.

"The incident, which was not reported when it occurred, was brought to our attention by an observant off-duty BCSO deputy, who noticed a motorcycle on its side adjacent to a parking lot, well off the roadway. Recognizing the suspicious nature of the situation, the off-duty deputy promptly contacted an on-duty deputy who quickly proceeded to the scene to investigate," the press release states.

After arriving at the location, the on-duty deputy discovered a downed rider in a grassy area and immediately initiated emergency medical treatment and requested Medic 1 Ambulance.

Despite the efforts of first responders and medical personnel, the rider succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Preliminary investigation at the scene suggests that this was a single-vehicle crash at the T-intersection of W. US-12 and the highway.

The motorcyclist, 45-year-old Michael Thomas Nowicki of Edwardsburg, Michigan, left the roadway and collided with a traffic sign adjacent to the road.

"The Berrien County Sheriff's Department Accident Investigation Unit, in conjunction with WMed Office of the Medical Examiner, is diligently working on a comprehensive investigation to determine the circumstances leading to this incident," the release said.

Anyone who witnessed the crash occur should contact the Berrien County Sheriff's Office.

Other agencies involved were New Buffalo Township Patrol, New Buffalo City Police, Pokagon Band Tribal Police, Michiana – Grand Beach Police and Medic 1 Ambulance.

— STAFF REPORTS

Staying 'calm' in any situation, be it when you are angry, sad or under pressure is indeed a super power.
— Bruce Lee

GARDEN CLUB EVENT TO DISCUSS ECOLOGY IN GARDENING

Jack Pizzo will discuss restoring Michigan's ecosystems at the Tuesday, Nov. 14, River Valley Garden Club meeting.

The event, which is open to the public, will be held at 1 p.m. at the Harbert Community Church at the corner of Three Oaks and Harbert roads in Sawyer.

"We are all looking forward to hearing Jack and seeing photos of his work," said Elizabeth Palulis, club president. "He says that learning ecology makes gardening easier."

Pizzo has a BS in Ornamental Horticulture and a MS in Restoration Ecology from the University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign. He is a professional landscape architect (PLA, Licensed), certified prescribed burn manager (CPBM) and a certified nursery professional (ICN). He has been restoring ecosystems and growing native plants for over 35 years. His Three Oaks office has restored Michigan and Indiana ecosystems since 2001.

Anyone with an interest in gardening is always welcome at the River Valley Garden Club. The club has field trips, guest speakers, a member's plant auction and hands-on workshops in addition to the annual plant sale. The club is also involved in service projects throughout the year. Members come from Indiana and throughout southwest Michigan.

For more information, contact Palulis at 269-362-4564 or email her at evpalulis@yahoo.com. Also visit the club's website, www.rivervalleygardenclub.org. — STAFF REPORTS

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
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L. Paul Bailey, Sheriff
Chuck Heit, Undersheriff
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CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
MARY ROBERTSON, CLERK
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES

MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

MOLD cohort discusses parks operations, community engagement in Chikaming Township

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members from the Michigan Organizational Leadership Development Cohort (MOLD) from Michigan Recreation and Parks Association (mParks) program presented on parks operation and community engagement in Chikaming Township when they visited Chikaming Township Center Friday, Nov. 3.

The township was approved as being one of the community projects for the MOLD program last winter.

Erika Smith, recreation supervisor with the City of Ann Arbor, said that the Park Operations and Management Committee, which was composed of different representatives from municipalities across the state, met Joe Martin, the township's director of parks and recreation, in February.

"We have been meeting regularly to work on a task to assist Chikaming Township Parks and Recreation in the administrative transition from volunteer board to a one person staffed department now within township administration," she said.

Last November, residents approved a proposal to disband the township's elected park board.

The project team's goals were to identify key management areas and administrative priorities, develop a tool kit of best practices and resources and highlight key recommendations.

The cohort toured the township's parks, beaches and preserves in April. Next, members reviewed the existing community parks and recreations plan.

From their research, the committee created a toolkit that focuses on five areas: maintenance/operations, special events, starting a park ambassador committee, ADA overview and professional resources.

A big part of the toolkit was the recommended maintenance quality standards manual, a living document that would serve as a general guide for the scheduling frequency of maintenance tasks for all areas, facilities and equipment under Chikaming Township Parks and Recreation Department's maintenance responsibility, as well as provides a framework for inspections and evaluations.

Taking all the township's unique features - swamps, ponds, wetlands and beaches - into account, they created a maintenance checklist, which could be utilized daily or weekly. The checklist could note the condition of certain items, like signage, trails and restrooms, within the township's key areas, and when or how they've been fixed.

Regarding special events and programs training, it was recommended that Martin, Chikaming Township Supervisor David Bunte or another chosen individual take an online Incident Command Systems FEMA course in case of a large-scale crisis, disaster or emergency. Identifying policies that should be created before the next event, such as with regards to weather, and which special events should be planned for next year and what should be implemented in the community, was also recommended.

A Park Ambassador Committee would serve as a structure for facilitating volunteer activities and opportunities for community input and participation in Chikaming Township.

Volunteers are needed for stewardship, which includes invasive species management and checking off items on the maintenance checklist, as well as for marketing and other specific areas.

The township's website would be updated with a page on the ambassador committee, which would outline its vision. It was recommended that one year be devoted to recruitment and coordination and trying to "establish a framework for positive community engagement," Steve Fellhauer, recreation supervisor for the City of Livonia, said. Who approves the committee and township guidelines that would need to be in place for committee roles and selection criteria would need to be confirmed, and the application would be posted online.

Members of the Community Engagement Committee, after visiting the township, developed a survey, which drew nearly 300 responses. Mary Paytay, recreational director of the City of Mackinac Island, said the survey indicates what the community would like to see from the department and acknowledgement of what the township is doing well. A distinction was made between year round and seasonal residents, with around 158 responses from year round residents and 130 from seasonal ones.

"We're hoping the survey will help inform future master plans or to be referenced when you're implementing new programs that may come up to suit the recreational wants and needs of the people who live here and visit here," she said.

Come what may, all bad fortune is to be conquered by endurance.
—Virgil

Michigan City elects first African American mayor

BY STAN MADDUX

The first African American mayor in the history of Michigan City was elected in a landslide Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Angie Nelson Deuitch, a Democrat, defeated Republican incumbent Duane Parry.

Deuitch, 52, received 64% of the vote to 33% for Parry.

Libertarian Mike Walker collected 3% of the over 4,300 votes cast in the race.

About 200 of her supporters in the packed Uptown Social banquet hall at 9th and Franklin streets chanted "Angie, Angle, Angie" before she came out and addressed the crowd.

"There was a reporter that said it was a toss-up. It's tightening. Did you all see anything tightening? We knew from the beginning didn't we? We understood the assignment and we did it," she said.

Almost every one of her supporters raised their hand when asked who knocked on doors, made a donation to her campaign or a phone call to drum up support for her bid to become mayor.

Deuitch described her campaign as a "labor of love" dedicated to rooting out negativity and thinking only positively about the city's future.

"It's about how we're going to lift up Michigan City. We are about to elevate Michigan City to the next level," she said above the cheers of the crowd.

Former Michigan City Redevelopment Commission President Don Babcock said Deuitch has proven herself over the past 20 years to be an effective community leader in areas like neighborhoods and schools.

He also described her as being driven and genuinely caring about the city.

"You might not always get your way but being part of her team something is doing to happen and it's going to be good. People get excited about that," said Babcock, who's now involved in community outreach and economic development at the Purdue University Northwest campus near Westville.

Babcock went to say everyone in the community is going to benefit from the economic boom expected from the South Shore Commuter Railroad's nearly completed double track by her guidance as mayor.

"It's not going to be just the wealthy that are going to benefit from that. The whole community is going to benefit. We're going to strike that balance where everybody wins," he said.

Deuitch, 52, owns Diversity Square, a business focusing on connecting high school students not going to college with employers, workforce development and obtaining grants for things like food assistance in the community.

Previously, she was employed by NiSource, the parent company of NIPSCO, to make sure anyone working on their pipelines was qualified to perform the work.

She served previously on the city council from 2008 through 2011.

Deuitch said being the first African American mayor in the city's history is progress and one she earned.

"It's great. It's historic, but I'm the most qualified to be mayor. That's number one. I'm qualified," she said.

LEAGUE TO HOST MICHIGAN POPULATION DECLINE EXPERT AT 'A POPULATION IN DECLINE'

The League of Women Voters of Berrien and Cass Counties (LWVBCC) will host Arthur Havlicek, president of the Southwest Regional Chamber of Commerce, who will share insights on the current population in Michigan and what citizens can expect in the future, in a "Town Hall" function Tuesday, Nov. 14.

Interested citizens may attend in person at the Bridgman Public Library or watch on Zoom using the above QR Code, which the League is providing as a means of registration. The library is located at 4460 Lake Street in Bridgman.

Originally from Chicago, Arthur Havlicek moved to Southwest Michigan with his family when he was 8 years old. They settled in the beautiful town of Bridgman. Havlicek graduated from Lake Michigan Catholic High School and attended Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, where he earned a degree in political science and public administration. He began working in politics on campus and has since amassed nearly a decade of public sector experience that spans the local, state and national levels. His understanding of politics and policy eventually led him to the Michigan House of Representatives, where he worked for five years. As president of the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, Havlicek works to keep Southwest Michigan a great place to live and work.

The League of Women Voters of Berrien and Cass Counties works to encourage informed and active participation in government, to promote political responsibility, to increase understanding of major public policy issues and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. LWVBCC does not and shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. — STAFF REPORTS

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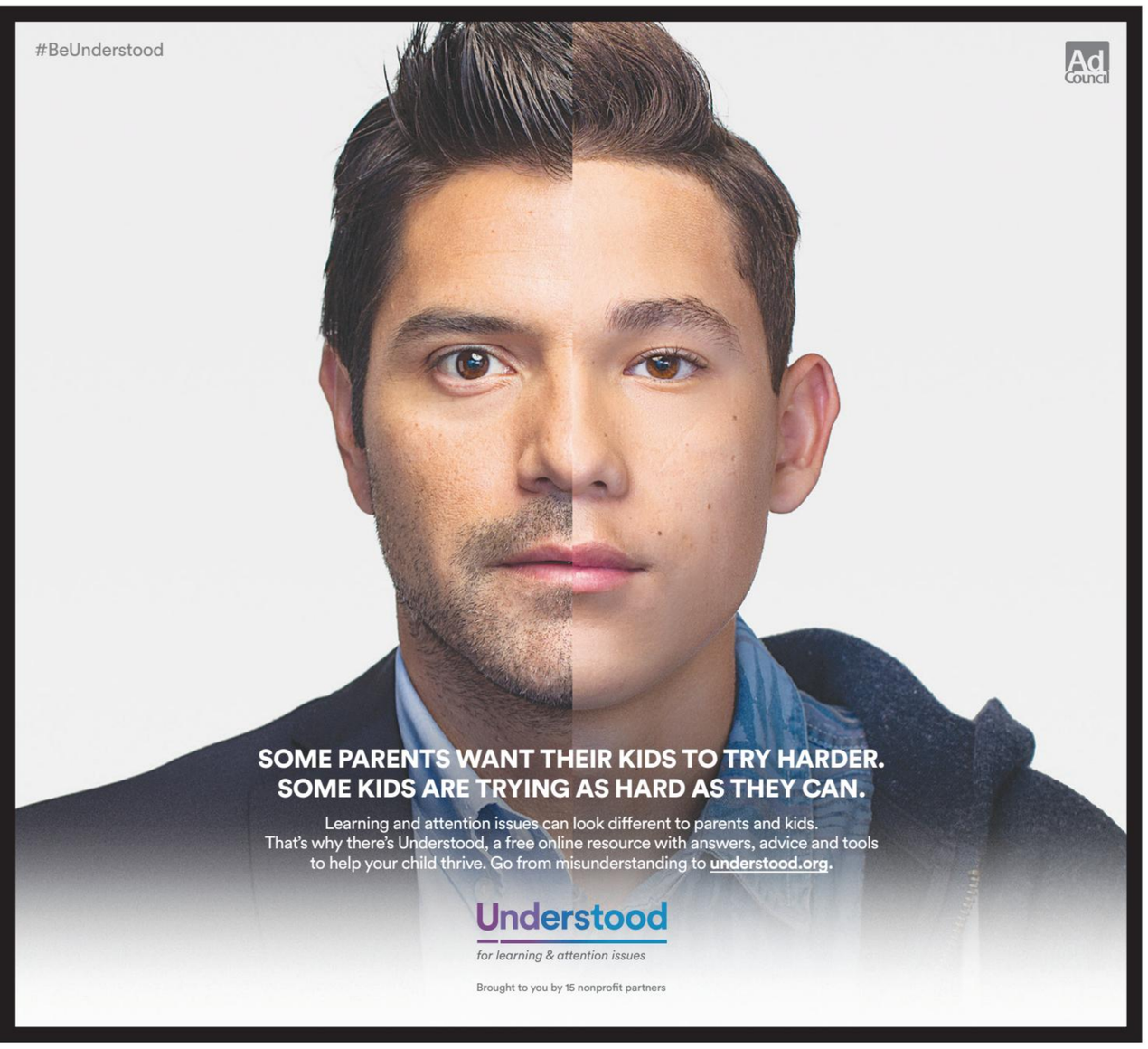
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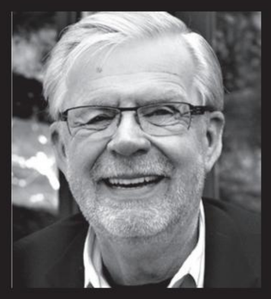
SPORTS

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

The sporting world is still my favorite place to hang out.

When I was a pre-teen, I used to sit in the living room with a stack of baseball cards, flip one of them in the air, and tried to hit it with a pencil, into the dining room for a home run. I had cards placed at all of the appropriate positions and had so much fun trying to "out manage" my imaginary opponent. I graduated to a baseball game that had cards you put onto a spinner. You would spin the spinner and it would land on a strikeout, homer, or anything in between.

For football, there were also a couple of games. Thinking about it, one was called foto-electric football. The offense would choose a play, and the opponent would choose (without knowing) a play designed to stop it. A third player (the referee) would slowly reveal what happened by pulling out a sheet that blocked the images that were backlit by a 15-watt lightbulb. The other football game had a board (field) that vibrated and the play ended when one of the vibrating defensive players touched the player with the ball. Although these games seem prehistoric now, they brought me hours of pleasure.

Back in those days, we would get the Tribune delivered in the morning, my Dad would bring home the Daily News from work, and I would devour every box score and check the league leaders in batting average, home runs, etc.

If you're getting the idea that I'm feeling nostalgic, you're perfectly correct. Things keep getting better every day, but do they really?

I still love sports and that love was nurtured in my youth, but if a youngster picks up his phone instead of the newspaper and receives news instantaneously rather than waiting with anticipation to receive it, how does he develop the curiosity to find out more about the sport. With so many new statistics available and so many other things competing for our attention it's almost a wonder that sports remain popular.

The future of sports worries me. The constant movement of players from one team to another (often so that agents can make another dollar), the proliferation of statistics, threatening to take strategy that isn't computer generated out of the equation.

The biggest issue for me is gambling. I don't mind friendly wagers between friends, but big business is filling the airwaves with ads and the opportunity for players, coaches, referees, and others to influence the outcome of games is frightening.

I'm sure that sports will survive all of these challenges, and survive and thrive in the future. But I'm just as sure that I grew up in the correct era, when a few kids and a bat and a ball was all that you needed.

Sturgill Simpson said, "You can embrace nostalgia and history and tradition at the same time - it has to progress or it can't survive."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Raiders win conference title in football

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders won their first conference title since New Buffalo and River Valley high schools merged their football programs three seasons ago.

The Raiders were 3-1 in their division of the Southwest Michigan 8-Man Football .

Eau Claire, Tri-Unity Christian, Wyoming Lee and Twin City are the other teams in the division with the Raiders, who lost only to Twin City 18-12.

Twin City is comprised of students from Countryside Academy, Michigan Lutheran and Our Lady of the Lake.

Raiders Head Coach Matt Johnson, who's also the athletic director at New Buffalo High School, said winning the conference title in their division was important.

"It just kind of helps solidify where our program is heading. That we're competitive and able to win the games we should win," he said.

Johnson said the division championship also helped ease the sting of a season that included a disappointing loss to Twin City and the last two games ending in losses to Bridgman and Gobles.

The Raiders were down by just five points at halftime to Bridgman, who went on to win 30-8.

Gobles defeated the Raiders 68-8.

"The last two games were tough but we knew they were going to be tough," said Johnson.

The Raiders finished with an overall 5-4 record.

"We won big. We lost big and we won some squeakers and we lost tight game. We kind of experienced all of the possible outcomes you can experience in a football season," Johnson said.

The division title was also the first for any football player from New Buffalo High School since the Bison won the Red Arrow Conference championship in 2013, when Johnson was in his first year as head coach.

Johnson said he was pleasantly surprised the most by linebacker Vaugh Nikkel, who wasn't recovered enough from a baseball injury while playing for the Bison in the spring to practice or play much early in the season.

Eventually, he became a major contributor on defense.

"He really stepped up and had some really, really big games for us," he said.

Johnson said he felt senior Owen Slavens exceeded his expectations particularly early in the season on offense, when he racked up large chunks of yardage running with the ball.

Slavens, a track star at River Valley, hadn't played football since middle school.

"It was nice to have his speed," he said.

The Raiders are losing eight seniors, including Ryder Wolnik, Payton Lijewski and Cameron Forker.

However, Johnson said next year looks promising, with quarterback Ethan Lijewski and lineman David Nicely among the returning impact players.

He also said there's promising talent among the varsity players mostly on the bench this season and the junior varsity squad.

Johnson said he hopes some of his players hit the weight room so they can effectively fill open positions on the offensive and defensive lines.

"That's going to be our biggest question mark," he said.

The antidote, want less.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Calvary Chapel, New Buffalo students pack shoe boxes for children

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

For the second year in a row, students and a local church have teamed up to make a big impact in a child's life by packing a shoe box.

Members of New Buffalo High School's SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) chapter joined Calvary Chapel New Buffalo's annual effort to collect items and pack them in shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse International Disaster Relief.

Every year, Operation Christmas Child invites people to pack shoe boxes with school supplies, fun toys, clothes and hygiene items to be distributed to children around the world.

National Collection Week is Monday, Nov. 13-20, during which people can drop off boxes at Calvary Chapel, located at 1615 E. Buffalo Street in New Buffalo.

The crates of shoe boxes at Calvary Chapel are loaded on a semi truck bound for South Bend, where they go to the regional collection center in Chicago. There, they're sorted by workers to ensure that certain items, such as toothpaste and food, aren't in them before being repackaged and sent to Boone, North Carolina. From there, they travel to more than 100 countries.

SADD members collected items from students and staff for a week, member Libby Lamport said.

Nicole Bowen, student advisor for SADD, and members Lauren Gradowski, Samantha Schimanski and Libby and Addy Lamport with their shoe boxes

"We posted an announcement with fliers of what are good things to bring in, like shoe box stuff," she said, adding that this also included necessary items like toothbrushes. '

By the end of the week, members of SADD, who engage in community outreach projects, had a table of items.

"It was an entire trash bag and maybe around 10 shopping grocery bags and an entire box of stuff," Samanth Schimanski said.

Students brought their items to Calvary Chapel Sunday, Nov. 5. There, Addy Lamport said they packed their items as well as ones from the church into shoe boxes.

"They showed us everything we needed and we went down an assembly line and then packed everything up and put an age range (on the boxes)," she said.

Nicole Bowen, health teacher at the high school and the student advisor for SADD, said that they watched a video, which shared the story of two sisters who'd received shoe boxes long ago.

"They remembered receiving their box when they were young and just the excitement it brought them and they were just talking and sharing about that, which was really neat," she said.

Pastor Len Pera said that Calvary Chapel has been collecting shoe boxes for around eight years, with the church having served as a drop-off location for five years.

So far this year, they have 475 boxes. Last year, they had 750.

Pera said that the number of boxes has increased throughout the years.

"I think we've topped every year, I don't think we've ever gone down in the number of boxes," he said.

The church collects items year round, with members making some of items. This year, Tammy Ohl, who heads the collection effort, said that members made tic tack toe boards again, as well crocheted bags for young girls. They also made re-washable hygiene kits for girls ages 10-14.

"It's important because we try to make them (the kits) with really beautiful fabric because human trafficking is such a problem and, as we understand, during wash day, people are looking for evidence of a young women in a house - so we try to make them as pretty as possible for them, to disguise them," she said.

Pera said that it will only cost people their time to pack a box; however, people are welcome to leave donations in the box to go towards the shipping costs, with Ohl saying it costs $10 to ship each box.

"I wonder if people think: 'What's it going to cost me?'... There's no financial cost to it and people can come," he said.

According to its website, since 1993, more than 209 million children in more than 170 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoe box. For more information, visit www.samaritanspurse.org.

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A scene from the first place winner, Schadenfreude Doesn't Become You

A scene from second place winner, Floating Down to Camelot

The secret life of cats and dogs is portrayed in Hounded

A scene from the play, Softball Bros

Garrett Stoneburner and Liberty Hickok contemplate their friendship in Quiet

'Spectacular Tournament of Playwrights' returns to The Acorn stage

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Michael Bond, senior production manager at The Acorn Center for the Performing Arts, said he received a play from the United Kingdom during the search process for The Acorn's Spectacular Tournament of Playwrights.

"I thought, 'What's going on - this is weird, this is crazy,'" Bond said.

The rest of the plays came from across the country, from California to the East Coast to Chicago. Altogether, 37 plays were received.

Play enthusiasts got to vote on the top three 10-minute plays out of a pool of six finalists at the tournament, which was held Saturday, Nov. 4.

An actor himself, Bond was determined to bring the tournament back to The Acorn after a three-year absence.

A committee narrowed down the field of plays to the ones that were being performed that night.

"We narrowed it down with a group of 14 people, who took all of these scripts and we blocked off the name, blocked off any contact information and we sent this out in packs of five and spent two months reading through - and we finally narrowed it down to our top six," he said.

Bond said that several plays were received from the region, including Three Oaks, Stevensville and Benton Harbor.

After viewing the finalists, the audience voted on their favorite after scanning a QR code.

The winner was "Schadenfreude Doesn't Become You, Babe" by Shawna Samuelson Henry from Davison, North Carolina.

The play chronicles a woman's battle with Schadenfreude, which is German for "pleasure derived by someone from another person's misfortune," after a run-in with a former "perfect" acquaintance.

A writer of short plays for several years, Samuelson Henry has had plays that have been produced and performed from coast to coast in the United States and Canada. Recently, she launched her debut Young Adult novel, "Made in Maine."

Second place was awarded to "Floating Down to Camelot" by Steven Satta and third place went to "Softball Bros." by Kyle P. Berry.

A theater professional for 30 years, Satta has performed on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and Baltimore area theatres, such as Everyman Theatre, Olney Theatre, Maryland Ensemble Theatre and Single Carrot Theatre. His short play, "Grieving and Sequins," was performed in Baltimore and Philadelphia as part of The Homo Poe Show with Iron Crow Theatre – Baltimore's first LGBTQ+ theatre, which he helped to establish. He's on faculty at Towson University in the Department of Theatre Arts, where he is a professor of voice/acting and director of the MFA program in theatre.

Berry is a writer of plays, short stories, sitcoms and marketing copy. Based in the Chicago area, he's also an actor and podcast co-host.

Other finalists included "Hounded" by Susan Meadows, an actor, potter and voice over talent who serves on the Twin City Player's Board of Directors in Saint Joseph; "Quiet" by Larry Nielsen, who's been a board member, director, actor and crew member and has acted in and directed numerous productions throughout Southwest Michigan and "Wine Tasting" by George Platz, who lives on a farm in Three Oaks, Michigan, with his wife.

The plays were brought to life onstage by actors and directors from Twin City Players, Beckwith Theatre in Dowagiac, Michigan and Tin Shop Theatre in Buchanan.

Nikki Gauthier, artistic director at The Acorn, said the night highlighted The Acorn's effort to feature a variety of performances.

"We are known as a live music venue and you will always see us presenting live music on our stage but we really want to be in those other areas of the performing arts - including our theater," she said.

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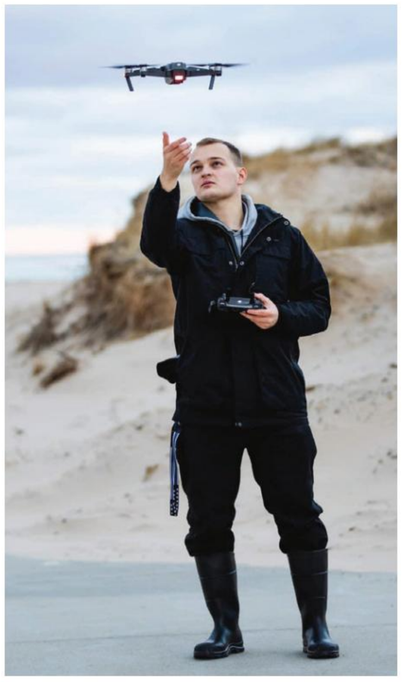
Nate Voytovick captures the perfect shot with his ground camcorder

Nate Voytovick's drone sets flight on the beach



Nate Voytovick uses his ground camcorder to capture the perfect shot

New Buffalo police officer reflects on dronography journey

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA — PHOTOS PROVIDED

To succeed in today's world of photography, Nate Voytovick, CEO of Nate's Dronography, said, one must "do things that people don't do."

"I'm always out there when it's the worst weather conditions you could think of - and usually, I'm the only guy out there," he said.

Take the video that Voytovick posted of the lighthouse on Tiscornia Beach in St. Joseph in the middle of the Christmas Blizzard of 2022. Voytovick, a police officer with the City of New Buffalo who lives in St. Joseph, had ventured to the beach after putting in a day's work at the police department.

Once Voytovick had made it over the hill to the parking lot, he was met with a whiteout and a 35 degree wind chill.

But Voytovick was on a mission.

"I was like, 'I got to get this shot, this is what people want to see,'" he said.

Voytovick had to dig himself out of a 5-foot snowdrift. After digging out a parking spot, he walked to his subject: the lighthouse, which was encased in a shield of ice.

Voytovick's effort was worth it: The video reached 70 million people, and was all over the news.

"It was by far my most popular video," he said.

To achieve the lighthouse shot, Voytovick used a ground camcorder. Since drones can go 36 miles an hour, they're able to withstand that much wind resistance.

"If you know what you're doing and have the right drone, you can technically fly on a somewhat windy day," he said.

Voytovick, who's also a storm chaser and is co-owner of Midwest & Great Lakes Storm Chasers, said it helps to have weather knowledge to ascertain if the conditions are right for a drone. Twice, he said he's lost a drone to Lake Michigan.

"You might be flying in 35 mile per hour wind, which is already tough, and then a 50 gust comes and now your drone's gone and you have no control because it's not stronger than the wind," Voytovick said.

Voytovick's dronography journey started in 2016, when he was a reserve officer in St. Joseph.

"I was getting into police work and I thought, 'Life is short, life is beautiful - what if I buy a drone?'" Voytovick said.

His first picture was downtown St. Joseph in the fall, which people "really loved." This prompted him to start a Facebook page.

"I thought, 'It'll never explode, it's just for friends and family to see pictures,'" he said.

But the page started getting some traction. Then, his video of Silver Beach was shared by former U.S. Representative Fred Upton, who's hometown is St. Joseph, on his political page.

"So, I started reaching people," he said.

Today, on average, Voytovick's work reaches 500,000 plus people in 28 days.

Due to connections he has with Good Morning America, The Weather Channel, WGN (Tom Skilling, famed Chicago meteorologist, has shared his work), CBS Chicago, WSBT and WNDU, his work has appeared nationwide. It's also appeared worldwide, as Voytovick said he licenses his work though Storyful, based out of Europe. The company sends everything to other countries, such as Australia and Italy. Someone from Brazil reached out to Voytovick regarding the ice video of the lighthouse.

"I'm just happy we can show off our little town, our little New Buffalo," he said, adding that the town's been "on the other side of the world" a couple times.

In March, Voytovick started his shop on Etsy, which includes canvases, nature photography, framed images and even ceramic mugs. Everything is shipped from the United States, and everything is only made here.

"So everything I sell is from the U.S. and the quality is pristine," he said, adding that products are made from different providers around the country.

So long as one "plays by the rules," as the Federal Aviation Administration controls the space "from basically the blades of grass up," Voytovick believes that anyone can pursue dronography.

There is a catch, though, he said: Don't do it for money. To this day, Voytovick still gives his work to the news outlets for free.

From the beginning, Voytovick knew he'd take an organic approach to building his business. He built a relationship with now retired WSBT meteorologist Matt Rudkin, who shared his work. He never paid for his 27K followers to follow Nates Dronography on Facebook.

"I wanted more visibility than money...If you're just going to be greedy for money, you're not going to succeed," Voytovick said.

For more on Voytovick's work, follow Nates Dronography on Facebook, which includes a link to his Etsy shop.

The "We All Scream for Ice Cream"-themed Miss and Mr. New Buffalo Scholarship Pageant is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, in the New Buffalo Performing Arts Center at 1112 E. Clay Street in New Buffalo.

Tickets are $20 the day of the pageant (no tickets will be sold before the pageant). Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

This year's Little Miss New Buffalo contestants are (top picture, front row, left to right) Zoey O'Connell, Lily Jaspering, Amelia Brough, Francis Bigg and Nora Beck and Little Mr. New Buffalo Thomas Cherrett. Contestants for Miss Junior Teen New Buffalo are (second row) Emily Beck, Shawna Yech, Kate Welsh, Bailey Cherrett and (not pictured) Lily Worley. Miss Teen New Buffalo contestants are (third row) Sierra Sheeler, Ava Jackson and Angelina Bryk and Miss New Buffalo contestants are (fourth row) Laura Wamser, Kaitlynn Rainwater, Savannah Periolat and Audrey Procter.

Contestants for this year's Mr. New Buffalo are (bottom picture) Cameron Forker, Nick Messinger and Braiden Brooks. — STAFF REPORTS

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Dermody coasts to second term as mayor

BY STAN MADDUX

La Porte Mayor Tom Dermody couldn't be happier with the results of Tuesday night's election.

Not only did the Republican Dermody win reelection by a more than two to one margin, all three Republican candidates in contested races for city council also won handily.

"I truly am honored. To give us a sweep of all of the races I think sent a strong message," he said.

Dermody, a former five term Indiana state representative, received 72% of the vote in his race with Democratic challenger Ron Zimmer.

Returning to the city council are Tim Franke and Laura Konieczny.

Taking her seat on the city council for the first time will be Republican Lauren Huffman, who finished second to Franke for both open council at large seats.

The seven seats on the city council will now be filled with a Republican after Democrat Laura Cutler, who represents the 3rd Ward, chose not to seek another term.

She will be replaced by Drew Buchanan, who ran unopposed in the May primary and the November general election.

"This is the trust the residents have given us and we have to show them that we're sincere to continue on the next four years," Dermody said.

Dermody said the focus of his next term will remain on areas like new housing for all income brackets, code enforcement, clamping down on drug dealers and providing more forms of recreation and entertainment.

FILM GROUP TO SCREEN DOCUMENTARY ON MUSICIAN SIXTO RODRIGUEZ

Harbor Country Film Group leader Eve Moran has selected a 2012 documentary on Detroit musician and composer Sixto Rodriguez for the group's meeting Monday, Nov. 20.

The meeting at the New Buffalo Township Library begins at 6:30 p.m. and will include an introduction by Moran, screening of the film and discussion afterwards.

Rodriguez was a gifted singer and songwriter who never hit it big in the Motor City. He recorded a few albums in the early 1970s and got good reviews, but his career never took off in the U.S. In apartheid South Africa, however, Rodriguez's powerful words and music made him a rock star. "Searching for Sugar Man" is an Academy Award-winning documentary by Swedish director Malik Bendjelloul that follows Rodriguez's career from its tentative start to eventual fame.

The Harbor Country Film Group is sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library. All are welcome at this program, and there is no charge for admission. As usual, free popcorn will be served.

The library is located at 33 N. Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo. — STAFF REPORTS

WOODCARVING DEMOS ON SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Center of the World Woodshop will celebrate Small Business Saturday by offering wood carving demonstrations, a sale and refreshments.

Terry Hanover, master woodworker and co-owner of Center of the World, will demonstrate the ancient art of carving wood by hand in the shop, where he has been creating custom furniture since 1985. Many of his pieces of furniture contain hand carved embellishments.

Woodcarving has been practiced the world over for some 12,000 years. In all that time, the practice has not changed. Using just a chisel and mallet, Hanover will demonstrate how he transforms a block of wood to an oak leaf.

Demonstrations will be given at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, at the woodshop at 4102 Hanover Road in New Troy. A store-wide sale will take place in the attached showroom from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free refreshments will be served.

Reservations are not necessary, and there is no fee to attend. For more information, contact Lorraine Hanover at 269-469-5687 or info@centeroftheworld.net. — STAFF REPORTS

HOROSCOPE

NOVEMBER 9-14, 2023

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Your ability to understand the root causes of problems and identify who is responsible for what is spot on this week. Just be careful you don't insult co-workers or hurt your dearest friend's feelings when pointing it out. Keep the focus on what you can do and how you plan on changing the issue.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Confront issues of self-identity and also the who and what you are associating with. Change and upheaval help us to see what is really important and who we can count on. Surrender your fears, over-come your vices and get that gossiping trouble-maker out of your life. Take more control.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

This is the week to clear up past issues and come to terms with any past hurts you have been clinging on to. Whatever has been blocking you will finally be understood or come to light, so to speak. Old hurts and struggles will come out of the shadows, not to scare you but heal you.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Some emotional storms could be brewing! Be sure to deal with intense feelings appropriately and don't get pushed around by people who are just trying to get a reaction out of you. Let the dependance other people have on your attentions go and focus on staying neutral and grounded.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Don't be afraid to leave things behind and move away from bad habits or unproductive partnerships. Relieve yourself of toxic partners and competitive friends. Deal with your need to mourn and grieve and then let them go. Bring your energy and attention back to you.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

You may be holding onto bad feelings or guilty feelings like you haven't done enough or should have acted differently when it comes to a close relative or intimate partner. Try being more communicative, clear the air and start in a new direction or a new way of relating to this person.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Some unknown feelings or some hidden agendas could be affecting your productivity this week. Carefully scrutinize the reliability of information before committing to long-term involvement. Ask yourself if you have internalized false ideas or are making decisions based on another's expectations.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

This week it is all about evaluating influences, where they come from, and how much they are affecting your progress. Maintaining a healthy constructive attitude is essential. Is your rock-n-roll lifestyle keeping you from financial and career stability? Are your friends helping or hindering you?

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Honoring your space means also accepting responsibility for your physical well-being. Get in touch with your body and make goals to get in a healthier place. Hammer out routines that support your overall health and vitality. Commit to being well and embracing healing modalities.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

There is an opportunity to get involved in technological projects that have the ability to affect many people. You will have a much easier time communicating if it involves writing. Your imagination will be stimulated and clarity comes from the written word. Sharpen your pencils.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18

Making career moves and long-term investments are an ongoing theme this month. Your ability to manage money becomes more efficient now giving you the confidence to join forces with someone you consider more advanced. You can learn a lot from this person so watch carefully.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

If deadlines are looming and you are getting stressed out by all the work you have focus on creating the right team and rely on your innate ability to affect others and motivate them into helping you accomplish a major project. You are surrounded by very capable people who are there to help.

It is better to destroy one's own errors than those of others.
— Democritus

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		2			7	8	4	1
	4	8	5					
8	3							
1								5
		5		9				
					5	2		
9			3			1		
	2	3			4		8	7

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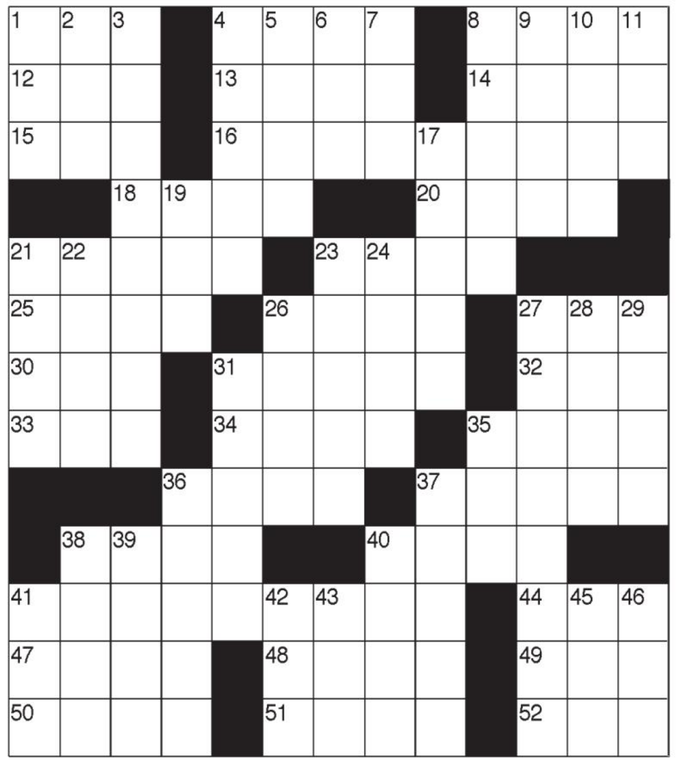
ACROSS

1 Pat
4 Tablespoon (abbr.)
8 Ironwood
12 Amer. Football League (abbr.)
13 Lower intestine
14 Caviar fish
15 British thermal unit (abbr.)
16 Skew (2 words)
18 Saga
20 Kernel (pref.)
21 Annoy
23 Atomic physicists
25 Another (Sp.)
26 Spotted cavy
27 Compass direction
30 Women's Army Corps (abbr.)
31 Serious
32 Equal opportunity employer (abbr.)
33 Ultimate degree
34 N.Z. bird
35 Buddhist female deity
36 Tough
37 Cordage fiber
38 Norwegian king
40 Loudness measure
41 Yon (2 words)
44 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
47 Jump
48 Project
49 Mountain on Crete
50 Bond movie (2 words)
51 Dear (Fr.)
52 Eye-infesting worm

DOWN

1 Flap
2 Astern
3 Gr. author
4 Dominion
5 Unhappy
6 Brythonic sea god
7 Saint (Sp.)
8 Brazilian nutritious drink
9 Hand (pref.)
10 Female
11 Gelderland city
17 Mogul emperor
19 Jap. volcanic crater
21 Village
22 State (Fr.)
23 Fanatical
24 Scientific name (suf.)
26 Rain
27 Whelk (2 words)
28 Cold Adriatic wind
29 Wale
31 Bar
35 Uncle (Sp.)
36 Marx brother
37 Cut
38 Remaining
39 Cant
40 Kill (Scot.)
41 Hoary
42 This one (Lat.)
43 Anglo-Saxon letter
45 Bother
46 Antiaircraft artillery (abbr.)



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The Ides of March Christmas Show coming to The Acorn next month

The Acorn Center of the Performing Arts will present The Ides Of March Christmas Show featuring Jim Peterik, Saturday, Dec. 2.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show is at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at acornlive.org. General Admission is $40 and advance tickets are $45. Day of Show Reserved Seating is available for $65 and $70 the day of the show

The Ides Of March Christmas show is really two shows in one. The first half features the Ides' distinctive original Christmas songs, mixed with choice traditional carols. Mostly "unplugged," the tunes weave a warm Christmas/holiday vibe – sometimes humorous, sometimes spiritual, but always entertaining and full of the season's cheer. The second half of the show is pure rock and roll, with a mix of Ides favorites and the top 10 hits Jim Peterik is famous for, including "Vehicle," "Hold On Loosely" and "The Eye Of The Tiger."

Since 1964, Chicago's Ides of March has thrilled audiences throughout the United States and Canada with their mix of rocking guitars, brilliant brass, and heartfelt vocals. Powered by the unforgettable songs of Grammy winner Peterik, their music has become an evergreen feature on radio stations everywhere, in movie soundtracks and national advertising campaigns. Defying the odds, the four original members, Peterik (guitar), Larry Millas (guitar), Bob Bergland (bass), and Mike Borch (drums) have remained together, weaving their way through the shifts in popular music, and always rising to action in creating a show that remains at the peak of entertainment. The original members are joined by Scott May (keyboards), Tim Bales (trumpet), Henry Salgado (trombone), and Steve Eisen (saxophone). That show has become a cornucopia of platinum hits, starting with the Ides' own immortal "Vehicle."

Peterik's songs have garnered 18 top 10 Billboard spots and have sold over 30 million copies, earning him a Grammy, People's Choice award, an Oscar nomination, and multiple Gold and Platinum RIAA commendations. Formerly of "Survivor," Peterik co-wrote all their smash hits such as "The Search Is Over," "Is This Love," "High On You," and "I Can't Hold Back." He also co-wrote "The Eye Of The Tiger," one of the most popular songs of all time.

The Acorn is located at 107 Generations Drive in Three Oaks. — STAFF REPORTS

Open burning possible cause of birth home blaze

BY STAN MADDUX

Burning a brush pile on a windy day could be the cause of a fire that heavily damaged the home of a La Porte County man, who has lived there since birth.

Firefighters from Kingsbury and other surrounding departments responded late Tuesday morning, Nov. 7, to a two-story house on a more than three-acre parcel at 6527 S. 50 West.

The owner, Dennis Young, 71, said he was burning an old garage knocked down over the summer in a brush pile that included leaves about 150 feet from his residence.

Young said he was walking away from the fire to do something else when he noticed smoke coming from the corner of his house.

He speculated the fire must have been caused from burning embers blown into the side of the house because it was windy and there was only green grass between the brush pile and his dwelling.

"The wind must have done it because I don't know what else would have done it," he said.

Kingsbury Fire Chief Mark Ritter would not speculate on the cause of the fire.

"Anything is possible. We're looking into it. That's all we can say right now," he said.

The fire was under control but still burning three hours later.

Ritter said it took a while to put out the flames, which spread inside the walls and into the attic, requiring water to be poured on to the roof from a ladder truck.

A number of walls had to be torn into to find flames and douse them with water.

"One piece at a time," he said.

Young said there were a lot of memories in the house and a lot of antiques he collected over the years.

He plans to live nearby with his brother, Robert, until he can have a new house built on the property.

"It's a pretty sad day to see something like that happen," he said.

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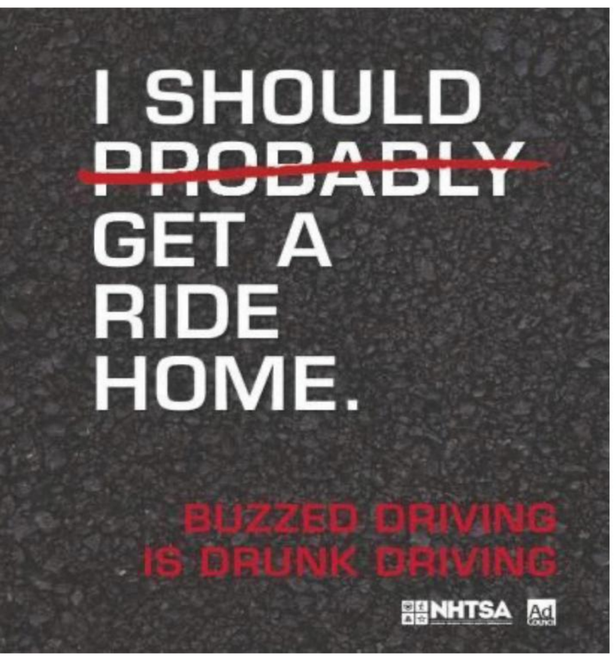
LIBRARY PROGRAM TO EXPLORES GEOLOGY ANIMALS OF MICHIGAN OVER THE EONS

"Michigan Through the Eons," a program at the New Buffalo Township Library Tuesday, Nov. 21, will explore Michigan's movements across the globe as the continents shifted through geologic time.

As tectonic plates collided and drifted apart, the land that would become Michigan was home to many different ecosystems and animals.

Katy Swanson, a naturalist at Love Creek County Park, will deliver the presentation on the epic changes that the state has undergone over the millennia, and document the changing environments with a collection of fossils.

The program begins at 6:30 p.m. There is no charge to attend, and all are welcome. The presentation is jointly sponsored by the Harbor Country Hikers and the Friends of the New Buffalo Library. — STAFF REPORTS



Plans to mostly shutter U.S. Coast Guard station

BY STAN MADDUX

There are plans to convert the U.S. Coast Guard station at Michigan City into a part-time facility before the next boating season.

U.S. Coast Guard stations at other select locations nationwide are also facing a similar downsizing of their time clocks.

In Michigan City, the decision is not being taken lightly by local officials mounting a grass roots effort to have the decision reversed at the federal level.

Mayor Duane Parry said a Coast Guard boat in Michigan City can reach a boater or swimmer in distress within minutes, but the wait for a vessel from the next closest location would be much longer.

"That's a matter of life and death," he said.

Other concerned local officials include New Buffalo Mayor John Humphrey, whose city is part of the coverage area of that station.

"I know that our need for a Coast Guard here is important. If that became any less than it currently was then I would have a problem," he said.

Phil Gurtler, a public affairs officer for the Great Lakes at the U.S. Coast Guard station in Cleveland, said a manpower shortage nationwide is forcing the decision to restore staffing and other resources to levels they should be in areas where service calls are highest.

"We are going to reallocate some of the personnel and assets," he said.

On average, he said staffing at all locations is down by about 10% from what the Coast Guard feels a station should have to be "optimally manned."

He said the numbers reflect the growing challenge of recruiting people into the military over the past few years.

"It's been a continuous issue. It's just kind of reaching a point now where some decisions have to be made," he said.

Right now, Gurtler said the plan for Michigan City is to fully staff and equip the U.S. Coast Guard station on weekends during the summer, when use of Lake Michigan is greatest.

He said whether it would be open from Friday through Sunday or strictly two days on weekends has not been decided.

Currently, the facility is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week year round.

"We're still crunching the numbers for what times it's going to be active versus not active," he said.

The primary coverage area of the U.S. Coast Guard station in Michigan City includes a good stretch of the Indiana shoreline to the west and east into Michigan, including New Buffalo.

The Michigan City station averages about 125 search and rescue calls a year, according to figures provided by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Gurtler said service calls when the station is not open will come from either the Coast Guard locations at Calumet Harbor near Chicago and St. Joseph, Michigan.

Whichever site is closest to the emergency will provide the response.

He said local first responders with access to boats, helicopters and other water rescue gear will be relied on to handle calls until the U.S. Coast Guard can get there in a boat or by air.

Already, Gurtler said police and firefighters begin rescue attempts if they're the first ones to arrive.

"It's kind of a coin flip sometimes to see if we get on scene first," he said.

Both of the U.S. Coast Guard helicopters serving the southern end of Lake Michigan are stationed in Traverse City and Detroit.

Parry said he was in the process of sending a letter denouncing the idea to decision-makers in Washington D.C.

Help is also being sought from elected officials including Congressman Frank Mrvan and Indiana Senator Mike Braun.

Parry said he also believes there could also be a negative economic impact from a percentage of people not wanting to use the lake without having the Coast Guard nearby.

"Whether they're coming over here to charter a fishing boat. Whether they're coming over here for a pleasure cruise or just to hang out at the beach, there's a comfort zone of having a Coast Guard station close," he said.

LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Jack Arnett is also involved in the effort to keep the U.S. Coast guard station open every minute of every day on the calendar.

He said securing federal grants for dredging Trail Creek leading to and from Lake Michigan is difficult enough, but could become harder without a full time U.S. Coast Guard station to help lend credibility to funding requests.

Arnett said the lake is also used in the spring by commercial and recreational fishermen.

"It's a huge deal. We got to put the full court press on to get elected officials to understand that," Arnett said.

Humphrey said the use of Lake Michigan in New Buffalo is busiest on summer weekends but still has a lot of active boaters on weekdays during the summer.

"I think that would be a poor decision to limit that without further evidence it's not going to impact the safety of boaters," he said.

Gurtler said he doesn't argue that U.S. Coast Guard response times in the Michigan City area would suffer.

However, he said a U.S. Coast Guard boat from Chicago or St. Joseph can still be there within a two hour timeframe mandated by Congress for coverage areas.

"I can say with certainty if the Coast Guard wasn't confident we could meet all of the requirements and, frankly, keep the public safe, we wouldn't be selecting these particular spots," he said.

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